Ryght as all stringꝭ ar reullit in ane harp
In ane accord and tewnyt all with ane uthe
Quhilk is as king yan curiously yai carp
The sound is suete quhen that ye sang is suthe
Bot quhen yai ar discordant falsse and muche
That wil no mantalk plesans in that play
Thai myght weill thole ye menstrale wer away

Bot and ye stringe be not all trew and traist
Quhat sall we do sall we ye menstrale wite,
ye bot he bend and preue yā wich allwaist
Be yai untrew pull on and mak all quite
And othir trew put in the stede als tyte
And change ay sua quhill he find trew concorde
Than wil men say he is worht to be lord

Thou ryall king all yis suld reull yi realme
Gud sound and suthe fast to yi legꝭ gif
Thy tyme to teche all suld be tane as tewme
Thi lawis suld get yi legꝭ laulik lif
Thou suld get syk yi legis throu a siff
Se quha wer worht to worschip quha to wos
And yaim reward eftir as yai cause ma

Reward worthy and punise wrechitnes
Nurice vertu exclude vice and errour
Consider weill ye sound of yi legꝭ
Knaw ther curage as face in a mirrour
Sen god maid ye to be ther gouuernour,
And you put blind men in ther gouuernans
Thow salbe punist for ther ignorans

For sic men as you depute under ye
Quhen yai be fulis we hat men ar wise
All men will traist þ sic like mone you be
As you comittis to gouern thy office
Hou suld a mā but knaw lege keip iustice
Or but wisdome to be a gouernoure
Thus may you neuyr of ther deidis haif honour.

Bot ger yong lordis study in yi lawis
And in ther youthhed tak sum techement
How suld a man be wyse that no thing knawis
To gif ye counsale in yi parliament
Or for to gif a rygth wise iugement
Nor for to goberne iustice in yi land
That hes ther wit to seik at othiris hand

O prince think quhy yi croune wes gewin ye till
Thi swerd yi ceptour in takin of iustice
Fra hie as god to discerne gud and ill
Expell wikkit and luf yam that ar wyse
And oure all thingis put wisemen in office
And knaw yam well that sall yi iugis be
Sen all ye plygtht and gelt lyis on ye

Bot sen a mannis wit may not suffice
For to mantene so hie a gouernance
Thow suld ger choise yi counsale that wer wyse
Be all yi thre estatis hayl ordinance
Syne lay alhale ye charge in ther ballance
To gif ye counsale in yi gouernance
As yai will answer and to ye gret iugement

And cheise na man for hye [illegible] place
Na gret [illegible] of [illegible] to consider
Bot be electioun [illegible] of men of gud
Quhilk god and man plesis [illegible]
That hes ye [illegible]
To luf gud [illegible] justice and [illegible]
And [illegible] of [illegible] gud conditioun

Think ane yat you mone gif a [illegible] compt,
And [illegible] for yi Jugement and yi [illegible]
And wait not quhen you sal be [illegible]
For to compeir [illegible] sall [illegible]
Quhar na reward sall be bot [illegible]
Thar sall na man be [illegible] for na ger
Bot ilk man sall his awin charge beir

Wald tak not all ye burdin on yi bak
With speciall counsale in to [illegible]
Gif it beis ill you sall [illegible] all ye lak
Youch it be weill [illegible]
For evin ye proffit of [illegible]
Is put on bak quhen sic men hes ye cure
And euyr yi [illegible] is [illegible]

Thus may you se be [illegible]
Be folkis yat hes yi gud [illegible] spend
Thai get ye [illegible] may not mak [illegible]
One yi houshald not half a yeir [illegible]
Bot in hunting [illegible]
One lordis et [illegible]
Thai, by [illegible]

Quhat makis yis bot captiue creaturis
Quhilk couth neuir counsale bot in couatise
Quhilk had neuir hert nor heid till be honouris
Wenand to wyn bot wretchitnes & wyse
Lord god quhat ar yir [illegible] price
Quhilk one iustice set [illegible]
And richit yame self et ther [illegible]

Thair suld neuir captiue be counsale till a king
Ne king suld neuir of his small [illegible]
Na wit of scantnes na of wretchit thing
Quhilk mycht his hert to [illegible]
All his delite suld be to keip ye law
For his honour his worschip et renoune
With wretchitnes restis neuir in a persoune

It is degrading till a kingis crowne
To mell wyth small wretchit besynes
Na with na tuilaris for [illegible] na [illegible]
To lere to conquise gudis with scantnes
Nobilite suld mell bot wyth nobilnes
And specialie ye noble maieste
Suld neuir be trauailit bot in materis hie

For sic men counsallis [illegible] to couatise
The quhilk to lawis is [illegible]
Gret couatise is in marchandis of [illegible]
Et euir is redy [illegible] by
Suld men sic be of yis counsall [illegible]
Na bere office quhar in ye honour lyis
Quhilk mycht be bot of tra iustice [illegible] yis wise

And exclud al effectioune singulare
And to ye commoun proffet ay tak heyd
Quhen kingis settis thame for proffit particulare
The realme sall neuir haif honour of thair deid
Besidis yat to want or quhare of hem ye sall [illegible],
Bot weill yi gud [illegible] iustice
Riches redoundis to men yat ar rychtuise

Quha wald be riche haif e to honour ay
For riches followis honour euyr mayr
Till honour wisdome is ye first way
And wisdome to vert u [illegible]
And vertu cūis of science and of [illegible]
And sciens cūis [illegible] grace
Conquest [illegible] travale and besynes

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Thus sen vertu is [illegible] graces
And souerane lord of vertu is iustice
As weill of worschip and of worthynes
For nane ar [illegible] that ar rychtuise
Hald vertu in yi hart and [illegible] wyse
And in iustice set all yi besy cure
Thi realme sall riche and yow sall [illegible]

Quhen rome wes regit be wise senatouris
In iustice and in public proffit
Our all yis erd yai wer lorde and victouris,
And tuk tribute [illegible]
Bot quhen ye weill of iustice wes gane by
And public proffit [illegible]
[illegible] desolatioune

Her for keip law gif you wald hald yi land
And luf largese at yow sall lordschip [illegible]
But quhilk grete [illegible] mycht nocht lang stedfast stand
The exemple [illegible] be for yi self you seis
For falt of law all [illegible] of fortoune [illegible]
Her for sectouris [illegible] at [illegible]
For quhilk hir dynt is [illegible] and [illegible]

Justice wald haif a generall president
Ane auditour of complante of ye pure
The quhilk daily suld [illegible] iugement
To pure at cry iustice at yi dure
Spendand mar yã ther clameis of valour
Syne put on bak quhill gret cause decyde,
Syne le[illegible] all for povertie may nocht byde

It is impossible to yi grete counsale
For to discusse all maters small and grete
Bot to small men committ all causis small
Of pur pleny[illegible] that [illegible] at yi yet
Quhilk daily hes nocht all ther [illegible]
With wif and barnis [illegible] for fait of bred
For quhilk god sall ye challange of ther dede,

Thy Jug[illegible] [illegible]
Oft tymes abuse ther [illegible]
Stopand ye [illegible] lordschip at [illegible]
For radour request [illegible]
Syne quhen ye pure complenis to [illegible]
Thai send yam of [illegible]
Quhilk for ther complaynt [illegible],

The mastis ar of iugis generall
ffirst to yi god sine to yi awin persone
To god yow hald yi hart et consciens haill
As to yi self and not to exceid ressone
Syne to do law to peple in to ꝯmounē
ffor first yow suld yai chaw a gud m[illegible]our.
ffor peple oft followis ye tred of ye pastour

Quhat thank cūnis god ye for to iustefy
The puer ꝯmonis ÿ yow hes in to cuir
And syne yi self to leif maist wrangwisly
Doand na ressoun to na creatur
traist weil sic lordschip may not lang endur
Wald yow tak tent vnto thir ald storiis
How mony princis ar punist on yis wyse

Gud iustice has ii partyes principale
the tane is dome et rȳ tuise iugement
The toyir is to mak ye scat his haill
Eftir ye dome ye partiis to content
And ther of mak yaim sikir incontinent
Eftir ye termē of law alutly
Or ellis ye iuge is detour werraly

Quhat walis a mā yi rightuis iugement
Wyth wryt et walx confermyt as efferis
And syne ye partis newir to be content
Bot drychit et delayit fra yer to yeris
Trowis yow not god z hicast hevin them heris
Cryand wengeance for falt of iustis fude
Of ye[illegible]them yat revis yam ther gude

Sanct dauid sais in haly prophecy
The mā is blissit ÿ dois bayth dome et law
Quhilk quhen he giffis a sentens suthfastly
Gerris execut it for ony mannis aw
Not anerly to schaw a nakit law
For to god it is bot vter dirisioun
A bair sentens but executioun

And be it a sentens of a souueraine lord
Quhilk signifiis sentens superlatife
Quhen dome is geuin et na remeid set ford
And terme of al law allegit to prescrife
Fra that tym furthe ther is no man on lif
May it reuoke but hurting to ye crounē
And degrading to ye iurisdictioun

yhit is a thing yat meklē greuis yᵉ croune
Quhilk seildin is remedit in yi land
Quhen ony man mak rebellioune
For wrang or det not bowand to yi wand
Deforsand maser sireff or seriand
thar is na punicion bot lattis it our passe
Quhar nane aw is how suld ther follow grace

yit of a thing all gud men m̄valis mair
Quhen yi gret counsale wyth yi awin consent
Hes ordanit strait iustice na man to spair
Wythin schort tyme yow changis yin entent
Sendand a contrar lett incontinent
Chargeand that of that mat mar be nogth
Than all ye warld murmuris at thow wart bogth